



# LPPD offering D.A.R.E. camps to educate youth

Wednesday, June 20, 2012 By Mike Gunning mike.gunning@baytownsun.com

La Porte police are taking a unique approach on trying to fight crime in the future by offering summer camps to children that gear them for adventure and fun with D.A.R.E. camps this summer.

About 33 La Porte ISD students took part in the first of several day camps last week, and because of the success of the program, LPPD will hold another camp the week of June 18.

The camps run Monday through Thursday and campers can expect to enjoy police related activities, plus some unexpected opportunities for summer fun, Sergeant John Krueger of the LPPD said.

Krueger said the program is being put together by some very experienced officers that know what will keep the kids attention.

"La Porte Police Department school resource officer Matt Parsons coordinated this year's D.A.R.E. camp with the assistance of D.A.R.E. officer Yvonne Stanley, LPPD's other SRO's, and several police volunteers and youth explorers," Krueger said. "The primary mission of the La Porte Police D.A.R.E. camps is to provide children with the information and skills they need to live drug-and-violence-free lives."

Krueger said the camp fulfills this mission by equipping kids with the tools that will enable them to avoid negative influences and instead, allows them to focus on their strengths and potential - exactly what D.A.R.E., which stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education, is designed to do.

"Children attending the camp also received instructional lessons concerning team building, internet safety, anti-bullying efforts, and the harms surrounding tobacco usage," Krueger said "And they'll enjoy several outings including adventures to Skate-World and the city of La Porte's wave pool."

According to Stanley, who teaches the D.A.R.E. core curriculum to 6th grade students at the Baker Campus during the regular school year, "the D.A.R.E. Program is all about providing young people with the tools they need to make smart social choices, while building trust and a healthy respect for authority.

Following the close of the D.A.R.E. Camp activities, the City of La Porte has also announced that they will be offering four individual Summer Child Safety Camps for other area youth. Camps are fully funded through the Harris County Child Safety Fund and will include safety instruction on various topics from the La Porte Police, Fire, EMS, and Parks Departments.

Each unique camp will be held on a designated Saturday, and the six-hour event will last from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The currently scheduled 2012 dates are for July 21<sup>st</sup>, July 28<sup>th</sup>, August 11<sup>th</sup>, and August 18<sup>th</sup>. Those interested should be aware that camps will be reserved for City of La Porte & La Porte I.S.D. Residents. These camps are guaranteed to be both entertaining and fun, as children ages 5 to 9 years old will learn important safety information. Specific Summer Camp information is as follows:

### Camp I – July 21<sup>st</sup> Held at Jennie Riley Civic Center (322 N. 4<sup>th</sup> street).

This camp will focus on Animal Safety, Stranger Danger, Internet, Pedestrian Crosswalk and Seat Belt Safety.

#### Camp II – July 28<sup>th</sup> Held at La Porte Fire Training Field (12201 N. C Street).

This camp will focus on Fire Safety, Emergency Management, Child Safety Seat Checks, and Administering Immunizations. Car seat inspections will be available by prior appointment. For immunizations contact Paramedic Rachel Gomez @ 281 470-0073 or GomezR@laportetx.gov, as Immunizations supplies may run low due to demand for the back to school requirements. You must bring your child's permanent immunization record.

## Camp III - August 11th Held at The La Porte Senior Center (1322 S. Broadway)

This camp will begin with classroom-style instruction and then participants will walk along the adjacent City trail to the La Porte wave pool. The camp will focus on Water Safety & What to do if you find a Gun. We will need **one adult for each child under 7 years old.** 

# <u>Camp IV – August 18<sup>th</sup></u> Held at Pecan Park (3600 Canada Road)

This camp will be a Bike Rodeo and each child will be provided with a free bicycle helmet.

To register your child for any of the camps, email Officer Stanley with your child's name and age. Once children have been added to the list for a particular camp, parents or guardians are required to complete a registration packet, and return it by the date of the camp.

On the day of each camp, check in will take place at easily recognizable registration tables, and camp admittance will be on a first come basis for the first 40 persons who have registered. If you have any questions about any of the listed summer camps, contact Officer Stanley at stanleyy@laportetx.gov or 281-830-5208.